

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.(Currently Amended) A homogeneous, transparent microemulsion which comprises polyethylene glycol and:

- a) 1 to 70% by weight, ~~preferably 10 to 50% by weight~~, of a water-insoluble liquid;
- b) 1 to 98% by weight, ~~preferably 20 to 80% by weight~~, of a polyethylene glycol;
- c) 0 to 97% by weight, ~~preferably 0 to 60% by weight~~, of water; and
- d) 1 to 20% by weight, ~~preferably 2 to 15% by weight~~, of a surfactant with the a chemical formula:



in which R is an alkyl or alkenyl radical having 8 to 22 carbon atoms, ~~preferably having 12 to 18 carbon atoms~~, or is an alkylphenol or polyalkylphenol radical having 4 to 16 alkyl carbon atoms,

in which R' is H or CH<sub>3</sub> or a mixture thereof, ~~preferably H~~,

and in which n is an integer in the range from 2 to 20,

where all of the data in % by weight are based on the a total weight of the said microemulsion.

2.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the a weight ratio of polyethylene glycol:water is in the range from 99:1 to 30:70.

3.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the water-insoluble liquid is less than 50% by volume of the said microemulsion and the a volume ratio of water-insoluble liquid to surfactant is at least 2.0.

4.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molar mass in the range from 150 to 35 000 g/mol, ~~preferably from 200 to 800 g/mol~~.

5.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein ~~which comprises, as component a), the water-insoluble liquid comprises, oils, hydrocarbons and mixtures thereof, preferably mineral oil or polydecenes, triglycerides, preferably natural oils and/or esters, preferably stearates, palmitates and myristates.~~

6.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5~~, ~~which comprises, as wherein~~ component d) is a surfactant ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of nonionic, cationic, anionic, ~~and~~ amphoteric surfactants, and mixtures thereof.

7.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1, wherein component d) is a ~~as claimed in claim 6~~, ~~which comprises, as~~ nonionic surfactant, selected from the group consisting of dimethylamine oxides, ethoxylated castor oils, poloxamers, alkyl polyglucosides, fatty acid sorbitol esters, fatty acid polyglycerol esters, ethoxylated fatty acid polyglycerol esters, fatty amine ethoxylates, fatty acid monoethanolamide ethoxylates, glycerol mono- and diesters of fatty acids, ~~and/or~~ phosphoric triesters, and mixtures thereof.

8.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1, wherein component d) is an ~~as claimed in claim 6~~, ~~which comprises, as~~ anionic surfactant, selected from the group consisting of phosphoric monoesters, phosphoric diesters, alkyl sulfates, alkylbenzenesulfonates, alkanesulfonates, alkylpolyglycol ether sulfates, preferably sodium laureth sulfate, alkylamidopolyglycol ether sulfates, alkylpolyglycol ether carboxylates, alkylpolyglycol ether sulfosuccinates, ~~and/or~~ fatty acid isethionates, and mixtures thereof.

9.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1, wherein component d) is an ~~as claimed in claim 6, which comprises, as~~ amphoteric surfactant, selected from the group consisting of acyl glutamate, alkylamidopropylbetaines, ~~preferably cocoamidopropylbetaine,~~ fatty acid methyl taurides, fatty acid sarcosides, and/or amphotoacetates, and mixtures thereof.

10.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9,~~ wherein component a) is solubilized in the microemulsion with a degree of solubilization S greater than or equal to 0.8, ~~preferably greater than or equal to 1.5.~~

11.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 10,~~ which additionally comprises an electrolyte.

12.(Currently Amended) The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 11,~~ which additionally comprises polar organic compounds, ~~preferably hydroxy compounds and/or polyhydroxy compounds,~~ particularly ~~preferably~~ glycerol, propylene glycol, ethanol and/or isopropanol.

13.(Currently Amended) A method for treating skin with ~~The use of a microemulsion as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12 for cosmetic formulations comprising contacting the skin with said formulations comprising the microemulsion of claim 1.~~

14.(Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a hard surface or clothing comprising contacting the hard surface or the clothing with a ~~The use of a microemulsion as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12 for cleaning compositions composition comprising the microemulsion of claim 1.~~

- 15.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the chemical formula, R has from 12 to 18 carbon atoms.
- 16.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H.
- 17.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water insoluble liquid comprises 10 to 50 % by weight, based on the total weight of said microemulsion.
- 18.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol comprises 20 to 80 % by weight, based on the total weight of said microemulsion.
- 19.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water comprises 0 to 60 % by weight, based on the total weight of said microemulsion.
- 20.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surfactant comprises 2 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of said microemulsion.
- 21.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molar mass in the range of from 200 to 800 g/mol.
- 22.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water insoluble liquid is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, polydecenes, triglycerides, and mixtures thereof.

23.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water insoluble liquid is selected from the group consisting of natural oils, esters, and mixtures thereof.

24.(New)                      The homogeneous, transparent microemulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water insoluble liquid is selected from the group consisting of stearates, palmitates, myristates and mixtures thereof.